

(Draft – Awaiting Approval)
MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE
Wednesday, July 13, 2016 – 12:50 p.m. – Room 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Evan J. Vickers, Senate Chair
Rep. Kay L. McIff, House Chair
Sen. Allen M. Christensen
Sen. Luz Escamilla
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. Brian E. Shiozawa
Rep. Stewart Barlow
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Rep. Craig Hall
Rep. Sandra Hollins
Rep. Michael S. Kennedy
Rep. Edward H. Redd

Rep. Robert M. Spendlove
Rep. Norman K Thurston
Rep. Raymond P. Ward

Members Absent:

Rep. Paul Ray

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Ms. Cathy J. Dupont, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Lee A. Killian, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Michael E. Curtis, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Lori Rammell, Legislative Assistant

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Vickers called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Rep. Ray was excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. McIff moved to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2016, meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Christensen, Sen. Escamilla, Rep. Kennedy, and Rep. Spendlove absent for the vote.

2. End of Life

Rep. Chavez-Houck presented and distributed "Utah End of Life Options Act" and reported on the effects of medical aid in dying legislation in states that have enacted it.

Dr. David Grube, National Medical Director, Compassion and Choices, joined the meeting by telephone. He related his experience with a terminally ill patient who chose to end his own life violently. He spoke in favor of Oregon's medical aid in dying legislation.

Dr. Margaret P. Battin, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Adjunct Professor of Internal Medicine, Division of Medical Ethics, University of Utah, spoke in favor of legislation that would allow people to end their own lives in the face of terminal illness. She addressed some of the common objections to medical aid in dying laws and explained that death under this type of legislation would not be classified as "suicide" on a death certificate nor would it affect insurance or other contracts.

Dr. James H. Ruble, Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy, University of Utah School of Medicine, participated by telephone. He spoke regarding the role of pharmacists in a "death with dignity program" and addressed the difference between "informed consent" and "informed decision."

Ms. Janet Lamere, who suffers from Stage 4 colon cancer, discussed her treatments, suffering, and diagnosis. She spoke in favor of medical aid in dying legislation.

Ms. Carrie Snyder, who suffers from Stage 4 terminal cancer, distributed a copy of her remarks and discussed her battle with cancer. She spoke of her and her family's desire to see the passage of medical aid in dying legislation.

Ms. Cara Drury, Physician Assistant and girlfriend of a young man who took his own life in the face of terminal illness, described her boyfriend's illness and desperation and her own experience in finding him after his suicide. Ms. Drury spoke in favor of medical aid in dying legislation.

Mr. Stan Rasmussen, Director of Public Affairs, Sutherland Institute, distributed "Testimony of JJ Hanson—July 13, 2016" and presented a video of Mr. Hanson's story of living with a terminal diagnosis. Mr. Rasmussen spoke in opposition to the adoption of assisted suicide legislation.

Ms. Jean Hill, Government Liaison, Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake, distributed "Assisted Suicide" and spoke in favor of expanding Medicaid to give patients options in lieu of assisted suicide. She spoke in opposition to the adoption of assisted suicide legislation.

Ms. Margaret K. Dore, attorney, and President, Choice is an Illusion, distributed "King County Bar Association," "Choice is an Illusion, a Nonprofit Corporation," and a packet of information, the first page of which was entitled "Memorandum." She discussed the six-months-to-die provision of Oregon's assisted suicide law and argued that no diagnosis is required for that determination to be made. She related her experiences as an attorney in Washington, where similar assisted suicide legislation has passed. She spoke in opposition to the adoption of medical aid in dying legislation.

Dr. Catherine Stokes, pediatrician, University of Utah School of Medicine, distributed "HB 264 End of Life Options Act" and reported on assisted suicide laws in Europe. She discussed the flaws of a "six-months-to-live" prediction; the importance of treatment as a consideration, even when assisted suicide is an option; the absence of a psychiatric evaluation in many of the Oregon cases of assisted suicide; and the lack of consent in some cases of assisted suicide. Ms. Stokes spoke in opposition to the adoption of medical aid in dying legislation.

Ms. Laura Bunker, President, United Families International, distributed "Statement of Assisted Suicide Legislation" and reported on the regrets of loved ones in many cases of assisted suicide, the pressure faced by some loved ones to help with assisted suicide, and the vulnerability of suffering patients. She spoke in opposition to the adoption of medical aid in dying legislation.

3. Controlled Substance Database Modifications

Sen. Todd Weiler distributed 2016 Third Special Session S.B. 3001, "Controlled Substance Database Modifications," and explained that the legislation allows probation and parole officers to access the state's controlled substance database without a warrant.

Ms. Anna Brower, American Civil Liberties Union of Utah, stated that the ACLU does not endorse this bill, but it does see the necessity of it. She warned against the collection of vast amounts of information by the government and the importance of limiting access to that information.

MOTION: Sen. Christensen moved that the committee recommend S.B. 3001 "Controlled Substance

Database Modifications" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Opioid Misuse

Rep. Ward presented "Prior Authorization Proposal for Opioid Prescriptions" and distributed "Prior Authorization Proposal for Opioid Prescriptions," a single-page graphic. He discussed data showing the tendency of patients who are prescribed opioids to become addicted. He indicated that requiring prior authorization from a health insurer for coverage of an opioid prescription not made in accordance with prescribing guidelines recently issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would be an effective way to reduce the overprescribing of opioids.

5. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Redd moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Vickers adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.